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Maxfield Parrish

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Maxfield Parrish



HOWEVER noticeable has been the group of young artists which have come to the front within the past few years, one of the most interesting among them is Maxfield Parrish, whose gifts are in the direct line of descent, the Parrish family, the best known of whose members is Stephen Parrish the etcher, being all artistic.

Philadelphians, and those who visit their city, look with pride or envy according to whether they are habitués or

wayfarers, on the attractive quarters of the "Mask and Wig Club." This club house was the creation of Wilson Eyre, the Philadelphia architect; in considering the ornamentation of the building, Mr. Eyre called to his aid Maxfield Parrish, who, having finished his three years' work in the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, was waiting for an opportunity. To him was given the decoration of the walls, the proscenium arch in the theatre, the ticket window, and a panel in the grill room. This panel, whose subject is "Old King Cole," was in a measure the young artist's certificate of merit and won him instant recognition, the preliminary drawing for it being bought by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine





*Maxfield Parrish*

Arts for their permanent collection, and when on exhibition at New York, it served as an introduction to the Harpers and others who were glad to avail themselves of the young artist's talent.



### *Maxfield Parrish*

Aiming at the decorative rather than the pictorial side of art, Mr. Parrish has of course essayed the poster, and with success, winning the first prize in the Pope Manufacturing Co's. contest, and second prize in the Century's competition. He has also designed covers for Harper's Weekly, Bazar, and Round Table.

Mr. Parrish modestly disclaims to have theories of art, but he most certainly has ideals and aims. He says: "Probably that which has a stronger hold on me than any other quality is—color. I feel it is a language but little understood; much less so than what it used to be. To be a great colorist—that is my modest ambition. I hope some day to express the child's attitude towards nature and things; for that is the purest and most unconscious. For after we have "gone through it all" we seem to come back again some day to our first impressions, with just a bit of worldly experience thrown in to make us conscious how delightful they are."

This expression of opinion, equally made up of humility and aspiration after the ideal of art, is a happy forecast of the artist's future.

His work is remarkable in its affluent simplicity, which contains a wealth of detail, and its quaint and original design.

